



September 27, 2005

Disaster News

Bayou La Batre gets FEMA OK for \$1.12 Million Debris Cleanup

MONTGOMERY, Al. —The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced its approval of \$1.12 million in reimbursement costs for the removal of an estimated 80,000 cubic yards of Hurricane Katrina debris in the City of Bayou La Batre.

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program will provide 100 percent of project funding for citywide debris removal from public rights-of-way completed by Oct. 27. Funding for any PA debris removal after that date will revert to the standard 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal cost-share arrangement for debris removal and emergency protective measures.

The funding is intended to remove a significant portion of the financial burden of the cumulative storms on local government finances as well as to make the area better able to withstand the impact of any future storms during this hurricane season.

Work has already begun in the county to remove tree and vegetative debris caused by a tidal surge that swept over 80 percent of the city along with high winds that resulted in extensive tree and limb damage.

FEMA and state Public Assistance specialists have been working closely with county and local officials throughout the declared counties to explain program requirements, coordinate infrastructure requests and streamline funding approvals.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages the federal response and recovery efforts following an incident of national significance. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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